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THE RED CROSS

BY CLARA D. NOYES, R.N.

Director, Department of Nursing

Were you to come to National Headquarters, Washington, D. C., after you had paused before the service flag of the Department of Nursing, hanging above the white marble steps of the Main Building, you would probably be surprised to see that the Bureau of Nursing, in the Fourth Annex, with its files of the National Committee, and the partitioned offices of the various bureaus, is as busy as when sixteen months ago it was sending to the Surgeon General's office the papers of 100 nurses a day.

An interesting place is this white-ceilinged, oak-furnished office space, open through the middle, with the Dietitian and Public Health Nursing Services on the right as you enter, and the Bureaus of Assignment, Home Hygiene and the Care of the Sick, Enrollment, and Nursing Publicity on the left. Down the middle of the room run the long green files where the papers of 36,000 Red Cross nurses are kept, numbering from the early days of the service. Were you to open one of the manila jackets, you would probably find eager letters of application for enrollment, credentials from training schools, travel orders, and accounts full of the humor, the thrill and the pathos of war service. To the left, just opposite the low oak geographical, alphabetical and status files, is a cubby-hole of an office, where the records of those 530 Red Cross nurses who have died since the organization of the service in 1909 are being catalogued. A worn badge with a "Storm and Flood, 1913" bar, or an appointment-card, perhaps a little bent and soiled now, will bear mute testimony that the owner's hands, once proud and eager for Red Cross Service, are now forever quiet. And the activities of this office? Not including the development work of the three Bureaus of Public Health Nursing, Home Dietetics and Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, much remains to be done regarding the demobilization of Red Cross nurses. From the War Department have been returned the papers of 15,383 Red Cross nurses, which must be sorted, efficiency cards made out, status recorded, and then returned to the original jackets. From these offices come the orders for mobilization of nurses for Poland, and the Balkans; from here also are sent the papers of approximately 20 nurses a day who desire to enter the Nurse Corps of the U. S. Public Health Service. From here go the pamphlets, and the stories regarding the service, and the photographs of nurses in the service on the other side of the world. Though for

a moment in the chatter of type-writers, the hum of voices, and the creak of a swivel chair quickly pushed back, you may seem worlds away from a hospital, or even a dispensary in Omsk, here you will find the nucleus of that far-flung army of mercy, of which Florence Nightingale dreamed as she walked through the wards of Scutari.

PORTRAIT OF MISS DELANO

Among the negatives which were made of Miss Delano, has been found a photograph of her with a long blue cape over her white uniform, and a Red Cross cap upon her head. By vote of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, at its meeting on December 9-10, and of the Division of Directors of the Department of Nursing, conferring at National Headquarters, November 15-20, this picture has been chosen as the one most worthy to perpetuate her memory. It is particularly suited for training schools and public institutions, while the photographs which portray Miss Delano in civilian dress are open to the objections which attend all pictures of this type. As her greatest work lay in Red Cross Service, so will she be remembered as a Red Cross Nurse, and this new photograph is preëminently suited to accomplish this result.

These photographs may now be ordered through the **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING** or the Department of Nursing, American Red Cross. The larger size, 15 by 20 inches, framed, costs \$15. The smaller size, 8 by 10 inches, framed, costs \$8.

RED CROSS COMMISSION TO POLAND

Edith M. Benn, whose name may be familiar to readers of the **JOURNAL** as one of the veteran Red Cross Chautauqua speakers of the Department of Nursing, sailed with eight nurses for Paris, December 11, on her way to Warsaw, Poland. Two nurses of the original unit of ten sailed January 6, while seven additional ones will report for Poland in the near future.

Alice Fitzgerald, Chief of the Division of Nursing, League of Red Cross Societies, completed on October 17, a tour of inspection through Poland. Everywhere was she convinced of the need for American nurses in hospitals to introduce American nursing methods and to teach the Polish attendants and nurses the proper use of equipment donated by the American Red Cross. She writes:

We visited an orphanage at Kobryn which has had help from the A. R. C., and where two Polish aides had been assigned to duty. Everything seemed well kept. Here also we saw a warehouse where refugee clothing was being sorted for

distribution; the large bales from America were being unpacked, the clothing sorted as to size and "sex" and then bundles of ten full sets were made up and marked plainly for "men," "women," or "children." In the latter case, the age was specified.

On our way back to Warsaw we were fortunate enough to stop at Brest Litvosk of treaty fame, where we visited the prison camp under the guidance of a competent officer who was the chief medical director of the station. On our tour of three of the prisons, we saw several thousand Bolsheviki and Ukranian prisoners, and found the conditions very much better than we had been led to believe. At Baranoviċci we visited the hospital attached to the camp, which made a better impression than any seen and I feel that this was due to the fact that at times nursing aid had been given to this institution.

The nurses whom we have loaned to the Polish Government are now working in Polish hospitals, and the one which I visited showed the good work done by these women, neither of whom spoke Polish. No interpreter had been secured for them. They had, however, been able to clean up the hospital, to obtain equipment for it, to train native women and put them in a neat uniform, and above all, to secure the full confidence and coöperation of the Polish doctor in charge.

ADDITIONAL NURSES FOR THE BALKANS

Sailing dates are being arranged for thirty nurses during the end of January, for service both in Poland and the Balkan States. A report from Miss Fitzgerald states:

We reached Sarajevi, Montenegro, in August, where we were escorted to the schools by a particularly intelligent Polish woman of the medical profession, who seemed heart and soul in the work. It was most interesting to see the excellent organization established for the distribution of cocoa, milk or rice, as was found necessary for each particular case. An excellent system of "checking" which prevented the children from "repeating" and insured to each one the proper ration of food, had been installed, and the youngsters not only obtained food for themselves, or for their sick relatives at home, but also came under the direct observance of the doctor in charge, who then followed the cases to their homes if necessary.

You would have been interested in the Moslem women, who are themselves heart and soul in the work. Some of them belonged to the young and progressive party, and had a short time before banded in a league to promote the laying aside of the face veil. This had, however, created such a storm that they did not have the courage to carry the scheme through, and it was only when the gentlemen of the Commission had retired from the kitchen and they were left alone with us, that they dared to turn back their veils and uncover their heads.

Podgoritzta, though not the capitol of Montenegro, has become the headquarters of the Red Cross Commission, and has been a most successful field for our workers. The patients for the hospital come from long distances and show their very great faith in American doctors and nurses by the hardships which they are willing to endure in order to come to an American institution. In the city a dispensary is being run, where eleven thousand patients were cared for between April and June 30, 1919. Though it had remained open all day, and had been able to care for every one who called, during our stay it was run only in the mornings, as their supply of drugs was getting very low. Quinine, which is so necessary in the treatment of malaria and sand-fly fever, had been used up

completely, also codiene, as well as that most necessary article, soap. The natives flock to the dispensary, however, and they may be found sitting on the doorstep before the hours of opening, and through the entire night, if they arrive after the doors are closed, so great is their faith in the American Red Cross.

THE SIBERIAN COMMISSION

From Russian Island, Vladivostock, Siberia, comes the following letter:

November 26, 1919.

Dear Mother of our good Miss Bridge:

We have to tell you that to-day is a very sorrowful day—the last day that Miss Bridge, our dear teacher is with us. She taught us not only the nursing and hygiene, but also, she taught us with her example and with her clear tender spirit and soul.

She was always so good to us. She was our small stove which made us warm all these four months of our work with her.

We thank God and you for such a soul as it is by Miss Bridge. This letter will come promptly to Christmas Day. We congratulate you.

(Signed) Nina Pavlovsky
Elizabeth Paptova
Natalia Kovolnko
Anna Shasburg
Enna Pgarkova
Katherina Dranicina
Eugenia Platokora

A HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

While these units in central Europe and Siberia are helping to make history for the American nursing profession, the Red Cross hopes to record the story of the Red Cross Nursing Service, from the early days of its foundation to the present time, as it faces toward its broad reconstruction program.

Lavinia L. Dock has undertaken to write the first part of this history,—the formative period, embracing the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, the formation of the Army Nurse Corps, and the Red Cross Reserve, as far as the declaration of war in 1914. Volume II will include the organization and formation of the early units, the base hospitals, and the general nursing program of the Red Cross following our participation in the war. Volume III will be concerned with the post-war activities of the service.

Although the publication of this history will be under the general supervision of an Editorial Committee, the Red Cross appreciates that such an undertaking can only be successful in proportion to the coöperation extended by those who have participated in actual service. To those nurses who have had singular experiences, who have met

war close at hand, and seen the infinite drollery and pathos and courage of those who have made freedom possible, who have perhaps here and there caught a telling photograph, or remember a characteristic incident, the Editorial Committee appeals for assistance, that this History of the Red Cross Nursing Service may become not only an authentic record of accomplishment, but also a vitally human and dramatic story of the gallant part played by American nurses in the great war. Will you not forward this material at your earliest convenience to the Department of Nursing, National Headquarters, American Red Cross?

APPOINTMENTS

Ida F. Butler, of Hartford, Connecticut, has been appointed Director of the Department of Nursing of the Insular and Foreign Division of the American Red Cross. Miss Butler comes to National Headquarters after a most successful Chautauqua season, during which she presented the war and peace story of the nursing service to over one hundred audiences in the middle western states during the past summer. A graduate of Hartford Hospital Training School, Miss Butler has had long experience in Red Cross work, both in this country and overseas. Under the Children's Bureau of the Commission to France, she organized a hospital for acute diseases for children at Lyons, when the Hindenburg offensive in 1918 broke the English lines and the Germans were within thirty-five miles of Paris.

As Director of the Department of Nursing of the 14th Division, Miss Butler has a most interesting task before her. In the near future the Red Cross contemplates the extension of its program of health education and conservation to the Virgin Isles, Cuba, the Canal Zone, China, and among other foreign and insular possessions.

Katharine Wheeler Holmes, of Newton, Mass., has been appointed Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Public Health Nursing Service, National Headquarters. Miss Holmes, a graduate of Smith College, and of the Newton Training School for Nurses, Newton Lower Falls, has had long experience in public health nursing, first at the Henry Street Settlement, New York, and later as Superintendent of the Boarding-Out Department of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital, of the same city. In 1918 she was associated with the Red Cross Children's Bureau, France, and for nine months was the American Red Cross delegate to the Department of Drome, Service des Refugies. After the signing of the armistice she served as head of the Foosani Unit, American Red Cross Commission to Roumania. Miss Holmes is one of the Directors of the Baby Welfare Association of New York City.